IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information ~~(220)~~ defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder ~~(200)~~; and

transmitting the signaling information along with the at least two layers (BS, ES) in a transport stream ~~(250)~~ to the decoder ~~(200)~~,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said transport stream ~~(250)~~ is an MPEG-2 transport stream.

3-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder; and

transmitting the signaling information along with the at least two layers (BS, ES) in a transport stream to the decoder~~The method of Claim 1~~,

wherein said signaling information ~~(220)~~ is constructed as a parameter list,

wherein said parameter list is comprised of a plurality of parameter values,

and wherein one of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a DC compensation.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein said parameter values define signaling information for each of said at least two layers (BS, ES).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~8~~5, wherein at least two of said parameter values define, for a corresponding layer, horizontal FIR coefficients for to a filtering operation required to combine the corresponding layer with a reference layer.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~8~~5, wherein at least two of said parameter values define, for a

corresponding layer, vertical FIR coefficients for a filtering operation required to combine the corresponding layer with a reference layer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein one of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a video stream encoding type.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein a ratio of two of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a horizontal scaling factor.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein a ratio of two of said parameter values defines, for a corresponding layer, a vertical scaling factor.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein one of said parameters defines an identifier of the reference layer to be combined with a current layer.

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein one of said parameters determines how the current layer is combined with the reference layer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the current layer is combined with the reference layer in one of a parallel and sequential manner.

17. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim ~~6~~5, wherein one of said parameters defines whether a corresponding layer contains one of an interlaced or progressive video stream.

18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the signaling information is embedded by means of MPEG system descriptors.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information ~~(220)~~ defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder ~~(200)~~; and

transmitting the signaling information ~~(220)~~ along with the at least two layers (BS, ES) in a program stream to the decoder ~~(200)~~,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said program stream is an MPEG-2 program stream.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information ~~(220)~~ defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder ~~(200)~~; and

transmitting the at least two layers (BS, ES) over at least one of an MPEG-2 transport stream, an MPEG-2 program stream and an Internet Protocol (IP) stream to the decoder; and

transmitting the signaling information over at least one of an MPEG-2 transport stream, an MPEG-2 program stream and an Internet Protocol (IP) stream to the decoder ~~(200)~~,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for providing heterogeneous layered video support, comprising the acts of:

constructing signaling information ~~(220)~~ defining how at least two layers (BS, ES) are to be combined at a decoder ~~(200)~~;

transmitting the at least two layers (BS, ES) over Internet Protocol using real-time transport protocol (RTP) in a transmission session for each layer; and

transmitting the signaling information ~~(220)~~ within the context of said transmission session,

wherein said signaling information is constructed as a plurality of parameter lists,

and wherein each of said plurality of parameter lists define a unique quality of service (QOS) of said transport stream.

23. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said signaling information ~~(220)~~ is transmitted in-band within said session.

24. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said signaling information ~~(220)~~ is transmitted out-of-band within said session.

25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of~~ as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said signaling information ~~(220)~~ is transmitted using session description protocol (SDP).